

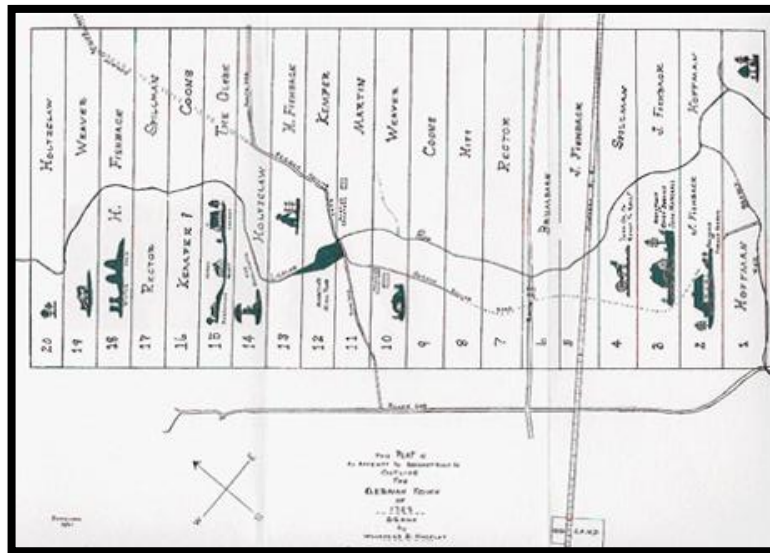
Historical Sites of the Fauquier County Parks and Recreation Department

Germantown

Germantown was Fauquier County's first permanent settlement, established in 1718 by Germans brought to the Rappahannock River valley by then Lt. Governor Alexander Spotswood in the early 1700's to excavate iron ore found on his property. Once their terms of service ended, they moved from his settlement along the Rapidan River to land along Licking Run. Many of the family names, such as Fishback, Rector, Kemper, and Hitt, survive in the County today.

In 1718, a deed was signed by these early families granting them land along Licking Run. The lots were divided among 19 different families, with the 20th lot being left open for a church and parsonage. Each lot was situated such that the Licking Run would run through each property at some point. The modern-day boundaries of this settlement are Meetze Road along the northeast and Germantown Road along the southwest. Until the American Revolution, these pioneers made their living growing and selling tobacco. As the economy of the country changed, the Germantown families soon turned to growing corn and wheat and raising livestock.

In 1985, the United States Soil Conservation Service dammed up Licking Run and created Fauquier County's largest body of water, Germantown Lake. Along this lake in 1987 C. M. Crockett Park was created, named for Charlie Mitchell Crockett who donated money to purchase the land needed for the park. Crockett's wife was a descendent of the original Weaver family who had settled in Germantown. More can be learned about early German settlements at www.germanna.org/history.html.



Outline of the German Town of 1729, reconstructed by Woodford B. Hackley (1961).
© Memorial Foundation of the Germanna Colonies in Virginia, Inc.

Elk Run Church Museum

Near the crossroads of Elk Run Road and Midland Road, the Elk Run Church Museum sits atop the foundation of Elk Run Church, the first Anglican Church built in what is now Fauquier County. The first minister of Elk Run Church, Rev. James Keith, was the grandfather of future Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, John Marshall.

In the 1750s a brick cruciform church replaced an earlier chapel which was noted on the 1751 Fry and Jefferson map of Virginia. After 1786, due to the disestablishment of the Anglican Church in Virginia, the building was neglected and fell into disrepair and eventually disappeared.

In the 1990s an all-volunteer archaeological effort was conducted from 1999 to 2006, uncovering the heretofore unknown 1750's stone foundation. Over 54 units were excavated by the volunteers, revealing the entirety of the remaining foundation. In 2010 the museum was opened in order to show a section of the foundation and interpret the history of the site and the area. Displays inside the museum include special artifacts from the Manahoac tribe, which occupied the area before European settlers, panels showing the relationship of the nearby Germantown settlement with the church, highlights of the Anglican Church in colonial Virginia, information about Chief Justice John Marshall, and artifacts recovered from the seven-year archaeological dig at the site.

Fauquier County Parks and Recreation was given oversight of the museum and property in 2019.



Gold Mining Camp Museum at Monroe Park

Fauquier County's gold mining history dates back to the early 1800's. Miners looking to exploit the gold belt that runs through Virginia applied to the state legislature for over 100 mining companies between 1832 and 1861. Of these companies, the Franklin Mine was the most famous in Fauquier County and was worked intermittently from 1825 to the late 1930s. Various techniques for extracting gold were used in Fauquier County, including panning, placer, open-pit, and deep shaft mining.

The Gold Mining Camp Museum at Monroe Park, in Goldvein, Virginia, celebrates Fauquier County's mining heritage and has been declared the Official Gold Mining Interpretive Center of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The museum consists of three buildings: an Assay Office, Mess Hall, and a Bunk House. These buildings re-create a typical mining camp in Fauquier County from the early 20th Century, house artifacts from various Virginia mines, and show the daily life of a miner. The museum is open on Wednesday through Saturday from 9:30 am until 5:00 pm and on Sunday, noon to 4:00 pm. From March to November, free gold panning demonstrations (weather permitting) are available Wednesday to Sunday at 2:00 pm, with an additional demonstration on Saturday at 10:00 am. Monroe Park is open to the public every day from dawn to dusk. For more information, visit the museum's website at www.goldvein.com or call the park office at (540) 422-8170.



**A trench left at the
Franklin Mine**

John Marshall Birthplace Park

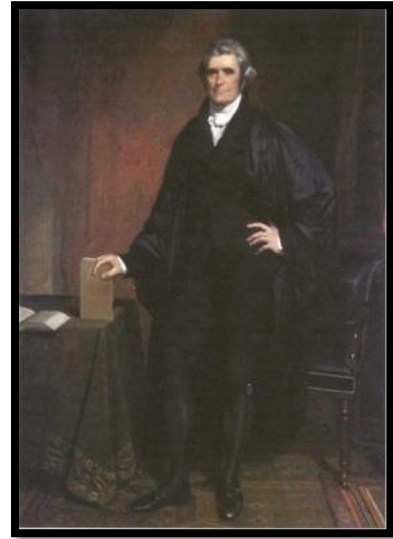
John Marshall, future Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, was born in a log cabin on September 24, 1755 to Thomas and Mary (Randolph Keith) Marshall. He was the eldest of 15 children born to this family, who made their home in Germantown, near modern-day Midland, which at the time was considered the edge of the American frontier.

John Marshall served his country as a Culpeper Minuteman during the Revolutionary war, represented Fauquier County in the Virginia House of Delegates and Virginia in the United States House of Representatives along with being the 4th United States Secretary of State. Appointed to the office of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in 1801 during the Presidency of John Adams, he would serve on the Court for thirty-four years.

Best known for his decisions while serving as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, he was the first justice to establish the right of judicial review, in his most famous decision, *Marbury v. Madison*.

The John Marshall Birthplace Park became Fauquier County's first public park in 1978. By that time a plaque was erected in 1902 by Phi Delta Phi, a legal fraternity of George Washington University which was then enclosed in a larger marker and unveiled in 1928.

The current park has a trail which ends in the marker and a small picnic area. Interpretive signage at the trail head adds to the educational experience. The trail is also popular for birdwatchers. More information on birding at the park can be found at <http://www.dgif.state.va.us>. The park is open daily from dawn to dusk.



Chief Justice John Marshall

Rappahannock Station

Along the banks of the Rappahannock River and situated near a railroad, the area of the proposed Rappahannock Station Park was the site of two significant Civil War battles.

The first battle came in August of 1862 during the Second Manassas Campaign. General Robert E. Lee's troops engaged in several small battles with the army of General John Pope along the river. The Union troops protected their bridgehead with the installation of artillery on a knoll.

A second battle occurred on November 7, 1863. General Lee had withdrawn his troops beyond the Rappahannock River, intending to use the river as a defensible line throughout the winter. Major General John Sedgwick and Major General William French of the Union Army foiled Lee's plans and attacked. The result was a stunning Union victory that was much bemoaned by the Confederate troops. Lee gathered what was left of his forces and marched them south for fear of becoming pinned against the Rapidan River. At the end of the



fighting, 1670 Confederate troops were killed as opposed to 419 Union troops.

The Fauquier County Parks and Recreation department acquired the land after interest was expressed by a developer in creating a subdivision there. Thanks to the actions of the Piedmont Environmental Council and the Fauquier County Government, the core of the battlefield was preserved from development and plans to create a park on this land are underway.

School House # 18

Following the American Civil War, the State of Virginia adopted a new constitution which contained a provision for the creation of a system of “free public schools.” Many of those first “public schools” were identified by number, not by name. So it was with School House # 18. The Schoolhouse #18 building was constructed in 1887 on land donated by the Shackleford family. Built during the days of segregation, the school housed only white students from 1887 until 1910. In 1910 the white student population was moved to a new school located on the site of the present day Marshall Community Center. Occupying #18 after 1910 were the African-American students of that area. The historic old site remained a school for the African-American population until its closing in 1963 when the student body was relocated to the present day Claude Thompson Elementary School near Rectortown. School House #18 is on the National Register of Historic Places as a Virginia Historic Landmark.

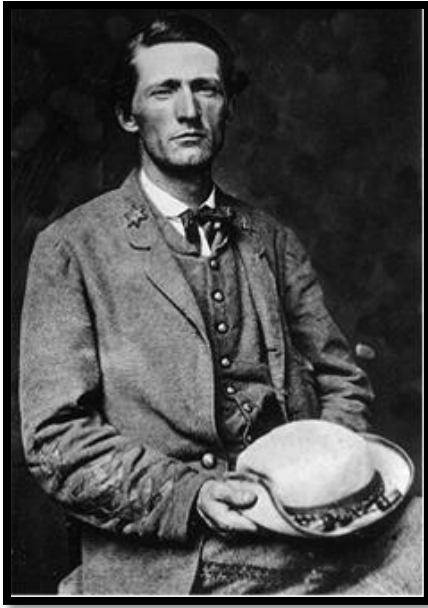


School House #18 is located adjacent to the Northern Fauquier Community Park. Park grounds are open from dawn to dusk. Additional tours can be arranged by calling the Northern Fauquier Community Park at (540) 422-8570.

Upperville Park

Civil War fighting took place in and around the village of Upperville. The Route 50 Corridor is today known as “Mosby Country” because of his numerous activities along the road. Some of his more famous exploits and battles took place at the nearby towns of Aldie and Middleburg.

The most famous battle in Upperville, however, took place in the days leading up to the Battle of Gettysburg. In June of 1863, the area played host too many battles between Union and Confederate troops. Most of the battles were efforts by the Confederates, led by General J.E.B Stuart, to ensure General Robert E. Lee’s troops safe passage to Pennsylvania. In the end, the efforts proved successful and Lee’s troops completed their march through the Shenandoah Valley unscathed and continued on to Gettysburg.



John Singleton Mosby

The Battle of Upperville was particularly bloody and resulted in heavy casualties for both sides, both men and horses. Federal Col. William Doster reflected on the battle by saying: “As we ride through the high road, it is mournful to see the heaps of dead blue and gray...” Many of the soldiers that fought and survived this battle would go on to meet again at Gettysburg.

Today, the site is commemorated with a historical marker that stands in Upperville Park. Across the street is a cemetery in which are buried some of the casualties of that battle, including native resident J. Warren Brent. More information about the battles in the area, click here: <https://mosbyheritagearea.org/chronology>.

Upperville Park is open to the public year round from dawn until dusk.

Vint Hill Village Green

Vint Hill Farms Station was the site of the Army’s WWII cryptology training school and the Army’s first large field signal station known as “Monitoring Station No. 1. The school trained army personnel in cryptanalytic, traffic analytic and cryptographic equipment maintenance. Soon after the Vint Hill Farm was purchased in 1942, operations began in the former dairy barn to intercept radio communications. Operations continued through the Cold War era.

The Army built more than 500,000 square feet of office and warehouse space and all the amenities to make it a self-sufficient community including some sports facilities.

The Department of Defense closed Vint Hill’s in September 1997 and the Fauquier County Parks and Recreation Department acquired the recreational facilities in 2001. The Vint Hill Village Green Community Center and Vint Hill Farm Park began operations that same year.

The Vint Hill Village Green facilities brought some significant “firsts” to Fauquier County. A partial list includes:



- First public gym
- First lighted tennis courts
- First lighted outdoor basketball courts
- First public racquet ball courts

The transition is now complete and Fauquier County Parks and Recreation continues to make improvements to the facilities.

Vint Hill Theater



The Vint Hill Theater is a rare surviving example of a venue designed for a single-screen cinema. The theater is historically significant for both architectural design and for its war-time association with the Vint Hill Farms Station army base.

The theater was likely built in the 1940s during the build-up in military housing at the base and was certainly in existence in 1952 as evidenced by historical aerial photography.

Aware of the possibility of morale problems due to living conditions, health, and fatigue, the Army made efforts to create opportunities for leisure activities, including organized baseball games and boxing matches. The Vint Hill Theater may have been constructed to facilitate higher morale.

The architecture of the theater building is characterized by its projecting facade and parapet topped with a large horizontal sign spelling “THEATER.” A marquee below the sign advertises showings. The brick building is rectangular in plan with a flat roof. The storefront windows have historically significant aluminum frames. Although aluminum windows appear in the early 1900s, it wasn’t until after WWII when aluminum windows gained widespread use. The exterior ticket windows, which are character-defining features, contribute to the significance of the building.

The interior of the theater features a full stage with a curved proscenium. The theater seating, which appears to be early if not original, is arranged in slightly curving rows typical for this type of venue and the auditorium’s original sloping concrete floor remains intact. In the rear wall of the auditorium is the window to the projection booth where a film projector would have projected movies through the window to a screen at the stage.

With a shift to multiplex cinemas in the late-20th century, many single-screen cinema theaters were unable to compete and closed. More recently, smaller theaters struggling to afford expensive digital projectors are at risk.

The Vint Hill Theater retains its historical integrity through preservation of its original character- defining features. Its continued use as a community venue adds to the retention of its historical character.

Warrenton – Branch Greenway

This popular walking, jogging, and biking trail in downtown Warrenton follows the path of a converted railway line which has its own unique history.



The Warrenton Depot

Originally the Orange and Alexandria Railroad was to link its namesakes while passing through each county seat along the way. The plan to go through Warrenton was abandoned because of the steep grades around the town. The residents of Warrenton were outraged and demanded that they have a railroad stop in their town. The Warrenton Branch was offered as a compromise and ran from the main line in Calverton to Warrenton.

During the Civil War, the Warrenton Branch became a supply line for both Union and Confederate troops as well as a scene for several battles. John S. Mosby and his raiders were involved in several of these battles, including an ill-fated raid on May 3, 1863. Mosby returned to his Warrenton law practice in 1866 and was appointed U.S. Consul in Hong

from 1878 to 1885. When he died in 1916, his body was carried back to Warrenton via the Warrenton Branch.

The Warrenton Branch was at its height in the early 20th century, but by 1948 the line was no longer in steady use and the Warrenton station was falling into disrepair. From the 1950s, the line saw dwindling traffic until it was abandoned in 1988.

Today, the section of the Warrenton Branch that ran through downtown Warrenton from the depot to the Rt. 29 Bypass has been converted into a public greenway. Indications of its history can still be seen in the depot building, which today is a restaurant, the Norfolk and Western red cabooses which sit at the side of the trail and are cared for by the Friends of the Warrenton Caboose, and an uncovered turntable foundation. The trail is open daily from dawn to dusk and the cabooses are open to the public on a regular schedule.

